



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

most 'up-to-the-minute' subject conceivable, is simply one of the many who should not be allowed to study the Classics any way, but should be directed to some other branches of learning.

W. B. McD.

TWO WARS IN GAUL¹

It is the tritest of sayings that history repeats itself, but in the events of the past few weeks the truth of this saying has been unusually well illustrated. The war occupying the northwestern part of Europe is in many features the repetition of a conflict held in those parts nearly two thousand years ago. Then a Caesar was regarded as the aggressor; now, no matter how much justification may lie back of the act, a German Kaiser is accounted the aggressor. Caesar represented the toga-clad nation which felt it its peculiar destiny to extend its dominions to the end of the world. The Germans, in like manner, are no doubt influenced by their firm conviction that they are about to find their place 'in the sun'. No matter how innocent this expression may be, it involves for many, perhaps for most Germans the implication of a great world-destiny. Rome had the best military organization of ancient times. In modern times there is no fighting machine like that of Germany for thorough equipment and discipline. As the Roman conquest was big with portent for the future, so now a German victory may alter the whole course of future history. While in these phases there is much upon which one may think with profit, I wish to call attention to a few minor features of the present war, so far as the strict censorship will permit us to know them, and compare them with some details presented to us in Caesar's narrative.

First, we have not departed so widely after all from Caesar's methods. Then the battle resolved itself generally into a hand to hand contest. Contrary to expectations, the bayonet charge has been employed frequently in the present war, if newspaper reports may be trusted. Then, as now, cavalry screens were important. Caesar's cavalry, after discovering the enemy, withdrew in order to let the infantry do the main work. Close formations, such as Caesar employed, were supposed to be obsolete, but here again we have been mistaken. The flank has always been important, but Caesar's method of digging transverse ditches, as in B. G. 2, 8, and placing there his artillery, has been exactly duplicated in the present war by both French and Germans. The securing of supplies, bridges, the handling of recruits, the use of a river to protect the rear, details occurring in the news dispatches, are familiar matters to the student of Caesar. The determined resistance offered to the Germans by the Belgians must have recalled even to the dullest school boy Caesar's words, *Horum omnium fortissimi sunt Belgae*. Caesar's intervention in the Helvetian war ostensibly to protect the Aedui, allies of the Romans, has a good anal-

ogy in England's assumed protection of Belgium's neutrality, for I presume all will admit that England's participation in the present strife was inevitable regardless of the violation of Belgium's neutrality. Caesar found a pretext for invading Britain in the fact that aid was brought thence to the Gauls in their wars against him. But no one is so bold yet as to say that the analogy will go so far as this. The forced marches of Caesar have their counterpart in the tremendous advance of the German right wing upon Paris. Caesar's ascription of the superior merits of the Belgians to the fact that they refrained from wine is paralleled by German military orders prohibiting the use of intoxicants by the soldiers. These are but a few of the items referred to in our dispatches that recall Caesar's account.

But there is still another and more important phase of the present conflict that challenges our attention. It is this. Many of the battle-fields of Caesar and his lieutenants are the scenes of the crucial struggles of the present war. Though the line of battle sweeps across the whole of Belgium and northern France, it is evident that there are circumscribed regions within which the main efforts converge, and these places correspond closely with the battle-fields of Caesar. Let us consider some of these. Authorities generally place the battle between Caesar and the German Ariovistus in modern Alsace, near Sennheim, and about eight miles from Mülhausen. Ariovistus made use of the Vosges mountains in an attempt to cut Caesar's communications, and had put Caesar between himself and the Rhine. The field was not of Caesar's own choosing, yet it was his deliberate act that brought him there, and there must have been something in the strategic possibilities of the situation that induced him to run the risk. The battle was won by Caesar, and the Germans sought refuge behind their Rhine. In the many movements and countermovements taking place around Mülhausen in the last few weeks, undoubtedly this old battle-field has been near the center of activities, and both the French and the Germans, just as Caesar did, evidently see in this region great strategic opportunities.

The next battle-field was of Caesar's own choosing. He had penetrated France in a northwestern direction, and had passed the Marne. He learned that the forces of the Belgians were marching south to meet him in order to expel the intruder. Caesar at once, marching in the direction of the enemy, hastened to lead his army across the river Aisne, and there pitched his camp. The river protected his rear and one side of his camp, and safeguarded his communications. Furthermore, there was a bridge at this point. It is generally agreed that he crossed the river near the modern Berry-au-Bac, which is about three miles from Craonne. While he was awaiting the enemy, the Belgians assailed the town of Bibrax, about eight miles from his camp, and identified with Vieux Laon, which is about five miles from Craonne. This town was defended by the Remi, allies of Caesar, and to its aid he dispatched some auxiliary

¹That no injustice may be done, Professor Keith it seems worth while to state that this paper was received on October 20. C. K.

troops. This had the effect of drawing the enemy against Caesar's fortified camp, where the advantages of position, combined with Roman discipline, secured an easy victory for Caesar. At the present writing Craonne lies at the angle of the German army from which one line runs east and the other north. While Caesar's account is much more reliable at the present than the newspaper reports, there is no doubt that the fiercest fighting has been going on in the very vicinity of Caesar's camp and battle-field. Now, as then, the river is reported choked by the bodies of the slain. Caesar states that the Belgian camp-fires extended a distance of eight miles. At this identical place, a few days ago, search-lights played over the heights all night long.

Caesar's most critical battle in Gaul was with the Nervii. The best authorities place this very close to Mauberge on the Sambre. The place was of Caesar's own choosing, yet he permitted himself to be surprised, but in a brief and fierce battle, in which the fortunes wavered, he won a complete victory. The nature of the country renders this region strategic, as is amply proved in the present war, for the German heavy siege-guns were employed to reduce Mauberge before being used on the fortresses to the south and the east. After the battle with the Nervii, Caesar marched up the Sambre until he came to the fortified town of the Aduatuci. While allies of the Belgians, the Aduatuci were of Teutonic blood. Their town has by some been identified with Namur, but by others, with greater probability, with Falhize, opposite Huy and about half way between Namur and Liège. By regular siege operations, Caesar brought about the surrender of this town. In the present war, there has been some fighting at Huy, and vicinity, though detailed accounts are lacking or contradictory. But there is one feature of this incident that claims our attention. Caesar, after accepting the surrender of the Aduatuci, used the utmost care that the inhabitants might suffer no harm from the soldiers. But the natives, thinking that they had thrown the Romans off their guard, with such weapons as they had not surrendered or had hastily devised, attacked Caesar's men by night. This breach of faith met a terrible retribution. They were beaten back into the town with great loss, and the survivors, numbering about 53,000, were sold as slaves. This incident has a close parallel in the recent events leading up to the burning of Louvain, which, according to the Germans, was done to avenge a similar breach of faith. It is interesting to note what Holmes, the greatest English authority on Caesar's Gallic war, has to say of this act. "Caesar was neither vindictive or cruel; but to those who defied him, and especially to those who broke faith, he was absolutely ruthless". This is the ground of justification urged by the Germans for their act.

After returning from an invasion of Britain in 54 B. C., Caesar decided to distribute his legions for the winter among the conquered nations. Strategy certainly entered into his calculations in the choice of the

winter quarters. Cicero was established among the Nervii, in close proximity to Namur; Sabinus and Cotta were quartered at Aduatuca, probably the modern Tongres, or if not, certainly not far from Liège; Trebonius was left at Samarobriua, the modern Amiens; and Labienus took a position on the Ourthe in Luxemburg. These places have all become familiar in the reports of the present campaigns. Around them the fortunes of battle have been decided. It is idle to speculate on analogies that remain to be developed. There is some talk of a German invasion of England or a French-English invasion of Germany, but probably neither will be realized. But enough has already occurred to indicate that Caesar, without the aid of previous experience, with no acquaintance with military history and geography available to the present captains, had a keen eye for strategic situations and that, even if he was not primarily a general, he showed a military capacity the greatness of which is being freshly illustrated today².

CARLETON COLLEGE,
Northfield, Minnesota.

ARTHUR L. KEITH.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING STUDENTS HOW TO STUDY LATIN AND GREEK

That the average student does not know how to study is generally admitted. That he must be taught how to study if he is to make satisfactory progress is a commonplace. That we too often do not take time to try to teach him how to study may be whispered among ourselves.

It was my good fortune some years ago to teach in a School where we had double periods for the beginning Latin, in which the students studied under the guidance of the Latin teacher. This plan enabled the teacher to direct the students in what he considered wise methods of study and to see that they followed his directions.

Since that experience I have always envied the teachers of science their double periods and am in hearty sympathy with the experiments that are being made in other Schools with double periods for all subjects. This plan, doubtless, would simplify the training of students in good methods of study, because the teacher would realize better the students' faults and could insist on better methods. But it will be many a day before all Schools are organized on the double period plan and in the meantime many students are going sadly astray for the want of guidance.

I base this statement solely on my own experience as a student and teacher and do not assume that you have had a like experience. But as a student, I needed very definite directions, which I did not get, and my students seem to be just as stupid as I was and seem to need just as badly the guidance which I try to give them.

With each new class it has been my custom to try to bring out by quiz and informal discussion helpful ideas

²In connection with Professor Keith's paper readers may find it interesting to examine the article of M. S. W. Jefferson, Caesar and the Central Plateau of France, *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 4.162-163.